

News & Publications, HSC Bureau

3601 Fourth Street
Lubbock, TX 79430
(806) 743-2143
FAX (806) 743-2118

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
REF: C-5-1-91
CONTACT: Pearl Trevino

LUBBOCK -- The fall application deadline is May 15 for persons wishing to enroll in the School of Nursing undergraduate program at the Texas Tech Health Sciences Center's Lubbock campus. Deadline for the master of science program is June 1.

Applications are being accepted for the fall semester from registered nurses, entering freshmen and transfer students from other colleges or nursing programs. Registered nurses with a bachelor of science in nursing are considered for the master's program.

The School of Nursing offers a bachelor of science in nursing degree. Registered nurses and licensed vocational nurses are eligible to receive credit for their previous nursing education. The master of science in nursing degree offers advanced clinical preparation in community health, perinatal care and gerontics.

The Texas Tech Health Sciences Center School of Nursing offers programs in Lubbock and the Permian Basin. For information about the Lubbock undergraduate or graduate programs and the application process, contact the School of Nursing Student Services Office at (806) 743-2737.

The Permian Basin campus accepts applications from registered nurses only for admission in June of each year. For additional information about the Permian Basin program, contact Associate Dean Brenda Cleary at (915) 335-5150.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
REF: D-5-1-91
CONTACT: Preston Lewis

(MEDIA ADVISORY -- You are invited to attend the MEDNET briefing, demonstration and ribbon cutting with Sen. Lloyd Bentsen. The senator will arrive at 2:30 p.m. with the demonstration beginning at 2:45 p.m. in Room 4A100. Bentsen will have a few minutes for media questions around 3:15 p.m. before moving to the MEDNET studio, 4B316, for the ribbon cutting. For more information, contact Preston Lewis, HSC Bureau, News and Publications, (806) 743-2143.)

LUBBOCK -- Sen. Lloyd Bentsen, who was instrumental in securing federal funds for the Texas Tech Health Sciences Center to begin its MEDNET project, will see the results of MEDNET during a briefing and demonstration Thursday (May 2).

Bentsen also will participate in a ribbon-cutting ceremony during his visit to the health sciences center.

MEDNET Director J. Ted Hartman, M.D., will brief Bentsen on the project. After the briefing, the MEDNET system will be used for a interactive video consultation between a general practitioner in Alpine and a Texas Tech specialist.

At the conclusion of the demonstration, Bentsen will then go to the MEDNET studio, Room 4B316, for a brief ribbon-cutting ceremony which will include remarks by Texas Tech President Robert W. Lawless and by Hartman.

MEDNET is a two-way interactive video system that provides 26 rural hospitals or clinics with continuing education services as well as video consultations between physicians and patients. The first MEDNET broadcast was in December of 1989. Today MEDNET conducts three hours a week of continuing education programming for health care professionals.

MEDNET was funded originally by a \$1.92 million grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The Texas Tech Health Sciences Center has provided the equivalent of \$2.18 million in personnel and equipment costs to support the project. AT&T has provided \$170,000 in equipment support and Southwestern Bell has provided a grant of \$150,000.

Additionally, participating hospitals pay local startup costs and monthly fees, depending on the various services they use.

TEXAS TECH
HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
REF: E-5-1-91
CONTACT: Preston Lewis

LUBBOCK -- The first speaker in the newly named Peter C. Canizaro, M.D., Spring Lecture Series will be G. Tom Shires, M.D., the new chairman of the surgery department at the Texas Tech Health Sciences Center.

Shires will deliver the first Canizaro lecture on "Trauma: The Neglected Epidemic of Modern Society" at noon Friday (May 3) in Room 5B148 in the health sciences center building.

Texas Tech's medical student body this year renamed its annual spring lecture series in honor of Canizaro, who was chairman of Texas Tech's surgery department from 1982 until his death last fall.

Canizaro had served under Dr. Shires as a student, surgery resident and faculty member before coming to Texas Tech. Shires is donating the honorarium given to lecture series speakers to the Peter Corte Canizaro, M.D., Endowed Chair in Surgery, which is raising a \$1 million endowment as a permanent memorial to the late surgery chairman.

Shires took over chairmanship of the surgery department on April 1, coming to Texas Tech from Cornell University where he was Weiss Dean and Provost for Medical Affairs and Stimson Professor and Chairman of Surgery. In 1985, the American Journal of Surgery designated Shires as the nation's most influential surgeon, based on his contributions to the field of surgery and on his leadership within the profession.

A medical pioneer in trauma care, Shires in 1966 published the field's landmark work "Care of the Trauma Patient." Until the book helped focus attention on trauma care, the field was little studied by medical students, despite the fact that major physical injuries were the leading killer of people under age 45. His research in trauma has looked not only at improving treatment of the injury itself, but also at minimizing the detrimental effects of the body's response to corrective surgery.

Additionally, Shires has done extensive research in fluid and electrolyte replacement and in burns treatment.

As a recipient of a National Institutes of Health Merit Award, Shires holds a 10-year grant for his research program.

ENGINEERS ENHANCE GERMINATION OF NATIVE GRASS SEEDS

[MEDIA ADVISORY: For more information on this topic contact Marvin J. Dvoracek, Texas Tech University researcher, at (806) 742-2972, or John Tucker, owner of High Plains Native Grass Seed Inc., at (806) 927-5545.]

LUBBOCK -- Agricultural engineering researchers at Texas Tech University, along with High Plains Native Grass Seed Inc. in Maple, have received encouraging results from a new process that enhances the germination of native grass seeds.

The process, which speeds germination by using modified equipment to remove the protective, hairy covering of native grass seeds, is funded through a \$10,000 grant from the Texas Agricultural Diversification Program of the Texas Department of Agriculture. Additional matching donations have been funded by High Plains Native Seed Grass Inc.

The most current research was conducted on Blue Gramma grass seed, a popular low maintenance grass. Tests currently are being conducted on additional varieties. Researchers found the removal of the seed's protective covering allows the caryopsis, or bare seed, to germinate in three to four days, as compared to the previous three to four weeks.

Removing the outer covering also helps break the dormancy characteristic inherent in native grass seeds, reducing the time required for the seed to germinate, according to Marvin J. Dvoracek, associate professor of agricultural engineering at Texas Tech.

The improved effectiveness of seed cleaning equipment often results in a smooth grass seed that can be spread using a Slinger or Cyclone seeder. The Slinger equipment also allows small areas of grassland to be seeded in the same manner as other more traditional yard grasses, Dvoracek said.

The enhancement of the germination period allows planting to extend into the summer months rather than to end in early May as traditionally has been the case.

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HEALTH TIPSHEET
from
TEXAS TECH HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER
May 3, 1991

CATCHING RAYS -- Cool shades may be in, but if you're not wearing the proper sunglasses, the sun's ultraviolet rays may be damaging your eyes. Prolonged exposure to the sun can be a factor in the formation of cataracts, says David McCartney, M.D., of the TTHSC ophthalmology department. A cataract is an opaque area that develops in the eye's normally clear lens. However, this type of eye damage can be prevented by choosing the right kind of sunglasses. In general, he said, sunglasses' protective capabilities have little or nothing to do with cost, color, darkness or brand. The protection comes from special lens coatings that block ultraviolet rays. McCartney encourages consumers to look for sunglasses labeled "UV 400" or similarly to ensure that the lenses provide adequate protection. For details on how to protect your eyes from the sun, contact McCartney at (806) 743-2400.

WEEKEND WARRIORS -- As spring brings longer days and milder weather, Americans are flocking to tennis courts, golf courses and backyard gardens to resume their outdoor activities. In making up for winter's down time many people will come face to face with the body's mechanical limitations in the form of bursitis and tendinitis, says Robert Yost, M.D., director of the TTHSC Sports Medicine Division in the department of orthopaedic surgery. Usually a result of overuse or improper use of an arm or leg, tendinitis commonly affects tennis players, golfers, runners and athletes involved in throwing activities. But people whose jobs or hobbies involve repetitive motions also suffer from this type of inflammation in the tendons. Bursitis also can result from exertion and often arises from many small repeated injuries to the area. Unlike tendinitis, Yost explained, bursitis usually is accompanied by swelling and sometimes fluid accumulation. For both conditions, the first line of treatment is rest, ice and elevation. If needed, non-steroid, anti-inflammatory medications also can be quite beneficial. However, Yost said, a little caution and common sense can go a long way in preventing tendinitis and bursitis. After all, there are plenty of sunny days ahead to work on that backhand or cultivate the perfect garden. For more on tendinitis or bursitis and how to treat and prevent them, contact Yost at (806) 743-2475.

For assistance on these or other stories,
contact Kim Davis or Preston Lewis at
TTHSC News and Publications,
(806) 743-2143.

F-5-3-91

(MEDIA ADVISORY: This Texas Tech calendar is compiled to let you know of upcoming events and releases and to serve as a reminder of releases already sent. If you need more information, call News and Publications at 742-2136.)

- MAY 3** University spring semester final examinations through May 8
- Peter C. Canizaro, M.D., Spring Lecture Series -- "Trauma: The Neglected Epidemic of Modern Society," by G. Tom Shires, M.D., chairman of the TTHSC surgery department, noon, TTHSC Room 5B148
- MAY 5** Suzuki String and Preparatory String programs concert
 3 p.m., Hemmle Recital Hall
- MAY 8** Teleconference -- "Constructive Disagreement," by Herbert S. Kindler, Ph.D., director of the Center for Management Effectiveness in Pacific Palisades, Calif.; sponsored by the Library of the Health Sciences, 1-2:30 p.m., TTHSC Room 2B152
- Office of Environmental Health and Safety awards presentation
 3:30 p.m., UC Ballroom
- MAY 9** Board of Regents committee meeting
 10:30 a.m., TTHSC 2B152
- Residence halls close for spring semester, 10 a.m.
- "Pre-Columbian Art: Overview of the Texas Tech Museum Collection," by Carolyn Dean, Texas Tech assistant professor of art history, 7 p.m., Texas Tech Museum
- MAY 10** Board of Regents formal meeting
 8:20 a.m., Administration Building Regents Suite
- Parents Graduation, sponsored by the Dads and Moms Association, 3 p.m., UC Lubbock Room